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NSC BRIEFING

19 December 1960

BACKGROUND

ITALY

- I. Tensions building up as Christian Democrats seek allies to govern key municipalities where neither national coalition parties nor Socialists and Communists have majority.
 - A. Leftwing Christian Democrats and the Republican and Democratic Socialist partners favor alliances with Nenni Socialists.
 - B. Rightwing Christian Democrats and the Liberal partners oppose such alliances on nationwide scale.
- II. Christian Democrats playing down national political significance of local alliances but Socialist Chief Nenni stressing it.
 - A. Fears activities of party left wing at Socialists' March congress.
 - B. Wants to convince party that his policy of independence from Communists is paying off.
- III. Liberals--in order to prevent Christian Democratic "opening" to Nenni--may find an excuse to bring down Fanfani government.

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